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FOR AF ASSISTANT SECRETARY GEORGE MOOSE ONLY

FROM AMBASSADOR CARSON

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
 TAGS: PREL, RW, UG  
 SUBJECT: RWANDA: NEED TO MOVE RELIEF SUPPLIES INTO  
 RWANDA THROUGH KIGALI

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY APPARENT FROM HERE  
 THAT IN ORDER TO MOVE GREAT VOLUMES OF RELIEF  
 SUPPLIES INTO EASTERN ZAIRE AND WESTERN RWANDA, A  
 DECISION WILL HAVE TO BE MADE SHORTLY ON WHETHER WE  
 SHOULD USE KIGALI AIRPORT AS ANOTHER HUB FOR OUR  
 OPERATIONS. I STRONGLY FAVOR THIS APPROACH EVEN  
 THOUGH THERE MIGHT BE SOME IMPACT ON THE POLITICAL  
 ISSUE OF RECOGNITION.

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 3. FYI: COL. DANIEL LAYTON, POLITICAL MILITARY  
 ADVISOR IN PM, IS MAKING A SIMILAR RECOMMENDATION TO  
 FRANCES COOK AND TOM McNAMARA IN PM. BILL GRAVELINK,  
 WHO IS HERE REPRESENTING OFDA'S INTEREST, WILL BE  
 ADVOCATING A SIMILAR POSITION TO USAID DIRECTOR BRIAN  
 ATWOOD. END FYI.

4. I BELIEVE THE NEED TO USE KIGALI WILL BECOME  
 APPARENT TO THE PRESS AND GENERAL PUBLIC VERY

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER  
 DATE/CASE ID: 23 JAN 2004 200301564

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QUICKLY, AND OUR RELIEF EFFORT STANDS TO BE CRITICIZED IF WE DO NOT USE THE FACILITIES THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO US IN CENTRAL RWANDA.

5. THE RATIONALE FOR USING KIGALI IS STRAIGHTFORWARD:

-- THE AIRFIELD IN GOMA IS SATURATED WITH TRAFFIC AND CANNOT HANDLE MUCH ADDITIONAL VOLUME. MORE NIGHT FLIGHTS MAY BE POSSIBLE, BUT THERE IS ONLY SO MUCH THAT CAN BE PUSHED INTO A LIMITED SPACE;

-- THE AIRPORT AT BUKAVU HAS A DIRT STRIP THAT WILL NOT HANDLE SIGNIFICANT VOLUME OR GREAT LOADS; (LAYTON AND GRAVELINK ARE AT BUKAVU TODAY.)

-- ENTEBBE IS OPERATING OKAY. BUT AS THE BUILDUP CONTINUES, IT WILL SOON BECOME OVERWHELMED. THERE IS LITTLE STORAGE SPACE HERE TO KEEP LARGE VOLUMES OF RELIEF SUPPLIES; AND,

-- AIR DROPS, AS DEMONSTRATED BY THE EVENTS OF JULY 24, WILL NOT BE THOROUGHLY SATISFACTORY IN DELIVERING

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THE MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF ASSISTANCE THAT WE WANT TO PUT INTO EASTERN ZAIRE.

6. USING KIGALI OPENS DOORS TO HELP MORE PEOPLE. THE AIR STRIP IS IN EXCELLENT CONDITION AND THE AIRPORT IS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF GENERAL DALLAIRE. THERE IS WAREHOUSE STORAGE SPACE. GOODS GOING INTO KIGALI CAN BE MOVED OUT IN ALL DIRECTIONS, INCLUDING GOMA AND GISENYI. KIGALI CAN BE SUPPORTED FROM ENTEBBE SIMILAR TO WHAT WE ARE DOING TO SUPPORT RELIEF OPERATIONS IN GOMA. WE ARE ASSURED OF MOVING FOOD AND MEDICINE TO WESTERN RWANDA AND EASTERN ZAIRE BY AIR AND ROAD.

7. I WILL TRY TO CALL YOU EARLY MONDAY MORNING. HOWEVER, I WANT TO GIVE YOU A HEADS UP ON THIS ISSUE IN CASE YOU HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT AT THE CRACK OF DAWN. AS SOON AS MY POL OFFICER CAN GET SOME TIME, WE WILL HAVE ANOTHER CABLE OUT ON THIS ISSUE.

CARSON

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